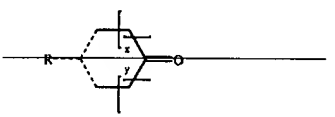
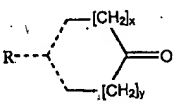
IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Macrocyclic ketones of the general formula





in which

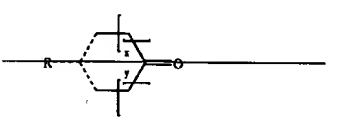
R is a lower alkyl or lower alkylidene group,

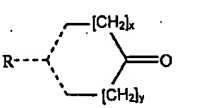
x=5 and y=7, or

x=6 and y=6, and

the dashed lines are, independently of one another, a C–C single bond or a C=C double bond.

2. (currently amended) Macrocyclic ketones according to claim 1 of the formula



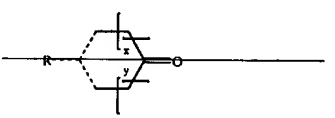


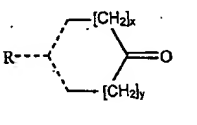
in which

R is methyl or ethyl.

3. (previously presented) A macrocyclic ketone according to claim 1, wherein said macrocyclic ketone is 8-Methylenecyclohexadecanone, 9-methylenecyclohexadecanone, 8-ethylenecyclohexadecanone, 9-ethylenecyclohexadecanone, 8-methyl-(E/Z)-7/-(E/Z)-8-cyclohexa-decenone, 9-methyl-(E/Z)-8-cyclohexadecenone, 8-ethyl-(E/Z)-7/-(E/Z)-8-cyclohexadecenone, 9-ethyl-(E/Z)-8-cyclohexadecenone, 8-methylcyclohexadecanone, 9-methylcyclohexadecanone, 8-ethylcyclo-hexadecanone or 9-ethylcyclohexadecanone.

4. (currently amended) Fragrance compositions comprising macrocyclic ketones of the general formula



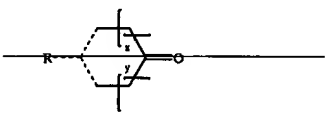


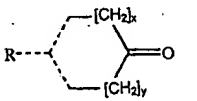
in which
R is a lower alkyl or lower alkylidene group,
x=5 and y=7, or
x=6 and y=6, and
the dashed lines are, independently of one another, a C–C single bond or a C=C double bond.

5. (previously presented) A fragrance composition according to

claim 4, wherein said fragrance has a muscone note.

6. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of the lower alkyl or lower alkylidene substituted cyclohexadecenones or cyclohexadecanones of the formula

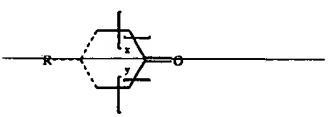


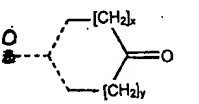


in which
the dashed lines, independently of one another, are a C–C single bond or a C=C double bond,

R is a lower alkyl or lower alkylidene group,

x=5 and y=7, or
x=6 and y=6,
wherein a cyclohexadecanedione of the formula





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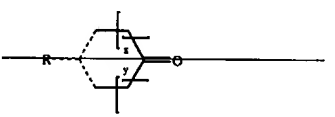
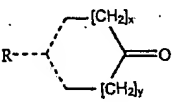
in which
x and y have the meaning given above,
is used as starting material, and in a first step is reacted with a lower alkyltriphenylphosphonium halide and a strong base in an aprotic solvent, and the resulting lower alkylidene-cyclohexadecanones are optionally isomerized and hydrogenated.

7. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of lower alkyl or lower alkylidene-substituted cyclohexadecanones of the formula





in which
the dashed lines, independently of one another, are a C–C single
bond or a C=C double bond,

R is a lower alkyl or lower alkylidene group,

x=5 and y=7, or
x=6 and y=6,

wherein, in a first step, ~~the~~ a keto function of said cyclohexadecanones is protected via an ethylene acetal, then a Wittig reaction is carried out and the protective group is cleaved off and, in further steps, an isomerization and hydrogenation is optionally carried out.